

**WARREN COUNTY COUNCIL MINUTES  
MONDAY AUGUST 5, 2019**

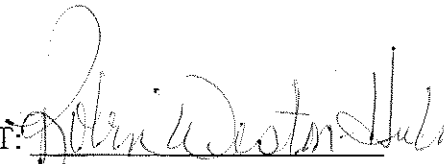
The Warren County Council met for their first meeting in the month of August 2019 by Michelle Hetrick, Clerk. Present for the meeting were: John Comer, Matt Commons, Sharon Hutchison, Ethan Foxworthy, George Taylor, Neil Ellis and Lee Kay. Also, in attendance are Brian Jordan, Clay Andrews, Adam Hanthorne, Michelle Hetrick, Jenny Hobaugh, Phil Astell and John Kuiper.

1. The meeting was called to order by John Comer, Council President.
2. Pledge of Allegiance was led by John Comer.
3. New Business:
  - a. Meeting Agenda Approval – John Comer requested to add the NextEra request for extension of construction start date to the agenda. Neil Ellis made a motion to approve the amended agenda with a second from Sharon Hutchison, all voted in favor.
  - b. 2020 Budget – Robin Weston-Hubner, Auditor, explained LIT estimates, MVH estimates, Budget Worksheet updated from budget meeting, Council Assignments to Department Heads, etc. The Soil and Water Conservation position was discussed. Michelle Hetrick, Clerk, inquired about changing the starting salary for new employees. The Council explained the longevity is a project that will be worked on during the employee manual review that will be taking place soon. Hetrick inquired about the 2020 budget requests if there were any cuts. Kay explained that there were no changes to the clerk budget other than the 3% salary increase. Jenny Hobaugh, Highway Department Office Manager, explained the salaries as the 50/50 rule applies to funds 1173 and 1176 for both 2019/2020 budgets. ADA Compliance line of \$5,000 in the commissioner's budget for supplies, etc. Web Admin and GIS Admin of \$2,000/each was added to the commissioner budget. Commissioners will discuss who to hire for the web admin position. Lee Kay made a motion to approve the 2020 budget and salaries with a seconded from Neil Ellis, all voted in favor.
  - c. Lee Kay made a motion to purchase/ 2 new highway trucks for \$300,000 paid for in 2020 budget with a second from George Taylor, all voted in favor.
  - d. Lee Kay requested financial reports for Animal Control, VSO, LEDO, E911, Health Department, Ambulance made a motion to request financial reports from to the council quarterly seconded by Sharon Hutchison, all voted in favor.
  - e. NextEra request for extension of construction start time. The abatement schedule was discussed. Hutchison questioned the 3 phases. Brian Jordan, Commissioner, explained that the abatement has estimated assessed value amounts which are figured using megawatts. Lee Kay stated the utility change filed with the utility commission has different megawatts listed. Jordan explained the original information has 2.62 megawatt towers and new towers are 2.8 megawatts. The reason for the change in towers is the technology has changed since 2016. Jordan explained the 1.5 million economic development payments will begin in 2020 and continue for 5 years. The abatement will end 100% in 2029. Comer explained the tax dollars will not only benefit the county but the schools and taxing units as well. Comer discussed the extension of time and economic development payments asking for opinions on why to give the extension and not. Jordan explained the Commissioners are asking for an additional 2% concrete mix added to the roads and NextEra would not negotiate. Matt Commons stated they will begin the build regardless of extra funding and it could benefit the County to extend the start date. Comer stated the County is in a partnership with NextEra and need to work together. Clay Andrews, Commissioner, explained the original thought was 2" and we are asking for 2% increase which was misunderstood by NextEra. Jordan stated the road repair could be banked and the commissioners oversee the road project. Comer worried about not having enough funds if we oversee the project and could be a financial issue. Comer stated new numbers will be presented for the abatement in the near future. Comer questioned if the 2% was added to the Road Agreement, would the Commissioners allow the extension. Kay inquired about the decommission agreement concerning bond money funding. Kay stated the salvage costs have dropped and is concerned about the decommission agreement. Jordan explained the road agreement appendix will be added after the roads are finalized, tower location, etc. Kuiper inquired about the liaison position the County will hire. Jordan explained the permit fees will be where the construction supervisor or liaison will be paid. Kay requested in writing the extension of time as per the agreement. Comer explained the paperwork will be presented after the council states interest in the extension. This is something that needs to be done quickly if the extension plan is agreed upon as the roads will need to be started on immediately. NextEra was set back due to the court case. Adam Hanthorne, Commissioner, inquired of what the benefit would be by giving them the extension. Commons stated other businesses may not be as interested due to the message we are sending with the issues of the windmills. George Taylor inquired about the road agreement. Jordan explained that NextEra should be contacting the Commissioners concerning the road agreement to setup a meeting. Kay requested new abatement numbers before making a motion to approve the extension. After much discussion, it was tabled until the August 26<sup>th</sup> meeting to further discuss.
4. Elected Official/Officer Holder Comment:
  - a. Brian Jordan discussed contact with Waggoner, Irwin, Scheele & Associates who consults with Counties doing salary studies as well as reviewing county policy manuals. The company works with approximately 70 Indiana counties. The county employee policy committee can meet to discuss the items to change, then have WIS review. Hutchison stated this would make it easier to look at the salaries and employees etc. during budget meetings.

5. Old Business:

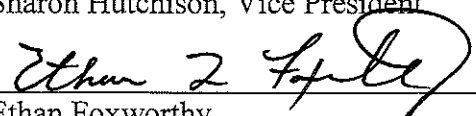
The next County Council meeting will be Monday August 26, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. joint meeting with Commissioners and 6:00 p.m. budget hearing.

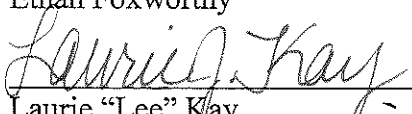
There being no further business, George Taylor made a motion to adjourn with a second from Sharon Hutchison.

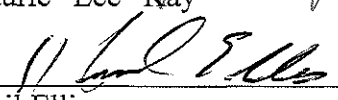
ATTEST:  WARREN COUNTY COUNCIL  
Robin Weston-Hubner, Auditor

  
John Comer, President

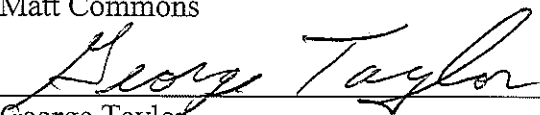
  
Sharon Hutchison, Vice President

  
Ethan Foxworthy

  
Laurie "Lee" Kay

  
Neil Ellis

  
Matt Commons

  
George Taylor